

Listing of Claims:

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor comprising a belt platform for supporting a belt of the conveyor along its length and a platform support arrangement for supporting the belt platform from the ground, wherein:

substantially the whole of said belt platform is formed as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal;

said platform support arrangement is a unitary component formed by bending from a single sheet of metal; to provide integral leg structures that extend transversely underneath the belt platform[;]

~~and said conveyor is configured to be constructed substantially without use of welding or threaded fasteners.~~

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are integrally formed from a single sheet of metal.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are separate sheet metal components.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 1, wherein said conveyor further comprises retaining means for coupling said belt platform on said platform support arrangement, said conveyor being constructed substantially without use of welding or threaded fasteners.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 4, wherein said retaining means ~~is free from welds and threaded fasteners, and substantially all of the~~ has exposed surfaces that are non-horizontal to promote self-cleaning and draining inclined in use.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 4, wherein said retaining means comprises one or more moulded synthetic resin members.

7-14. (CANCELLED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor comprising a belt platform for supporting a belt of the conveyor along its length and a platform support arrangement for supporting the belt platform from the ground, wherein:

substantially the whole of said belt platform is formed as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal;

said platform support arrangement is a unitary component formed from a

single sheet of metal; and

substantially all of the exposed surfaces are non-horizontal inclined in use; and

said conveyor is configured to be constructed substantially without use of welding or threaded fasteners.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are integrally formed from a single sheet of metal.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are separate sheet metal components.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the platform includes spaced parallel elongated channel-shaped side beams arranged with their open faces mutually presented.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 18 comprising a belt roller assembly supported at each end of the platform, wherein said roller assemblies are slidably received within the channel sections of the side beams.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 19, wherein at least one of said roller assemblies includes extensible means whereby its roller can be moved towards or away from the opposite end roller to vary the tension in a belt entrained, in use, around the rollers.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claims 19, wherein detachable cover members are fitted over the ends of the side beams and the associated parts of the roller assemblies to shield these regions against ingress of foreign matter.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the belt platform is supported from the ground by integral leg structures defining two pairs of support legs disposed adjacent opposite ends of the platform respectively.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 22, wherein each leg structure of the platform support arrangement includes a first component integral with one of said side beams and a second component fixed in use to the other of said side beams by way of a retainer.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 23, wherein the or each retainer is a moulded synthetic resin component.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 22, wherein each leg structure includes first and second ground engaging parts disposed respectively generally beneath said first and second side rails in use.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that each said ground engaging part carries a ground engaging foot, at least one of the ground engaging feet being vertically adjustable in use.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that said ground engaging feet are moulded synthetic resin members and are engaged with the respective leg parts as a push-fit.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of constructing a conveyor, the method comprising:

forming a belt platform as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal;

forming a platform support arrangement as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal; and

supporting said belt platform on said platform support arrangement, ~~substantially without welding or using threaded fasteners.~~ wherein said platform support arrangement is formed by bending to provide integral leg structures that extend transversely underneath the belt platform.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are formed as an integral unit from a single sheet of metal.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the surfaces of the belt platform and of the platform support arrangement are formed to have a shape so that in use substantially all of the exposed surfaces are non-horizontal inclined to promote self cleaning and draining.

31. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 28 comprising securing the belt platform to the platform support arrangement by means of a retainer without welding or using threaded fasteners.